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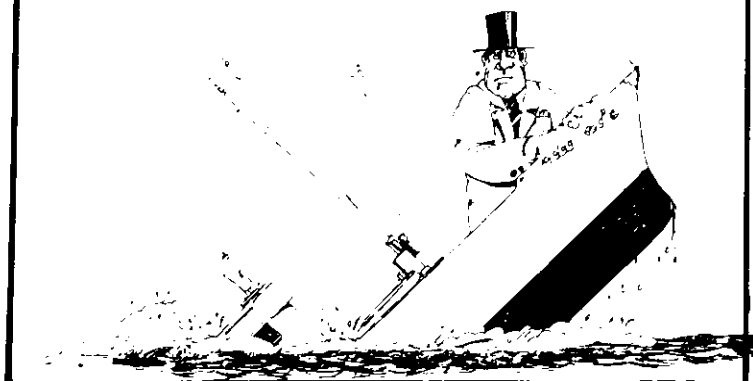
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#842 January 15, 1977

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LIBERATION News Service
17 W. 17th Street
New York, N.Y. 10011

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January 15, 1977

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LIBERATION News Service, now in its tenth
year, publishes twice-weekly packets of news copy
and graphic material. Photographs are half-toned
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STAFF NOTES

We'd like to encourage our subscribers
in the New York area to be sure to see a fine film,
opening in N.Y.C. January 23 at Cinema II: Harlan
County, U.S.A. The movie, which we reviewed in
packet #836, documents the history of the United
Mine Workers Union and the bitter year-long strike
by Harlan County miners and their families for
union recognition during 1973-74. The filmmakers
actively participated in the miners' struggle.

It's rare for an independent, political film
like this one to be shown in commercial theaters
for mass viewing. In order for the film to con-
tinue in N.Y. beyond a two-week run and reach
other cities as well, it will need large initial
attendance.

* * *

For information on private rental, contact
Barbara Kopple, Cabin Creek Films, 58 E. 11th St.,
New York, N.Y. 10003.

IF YOU ARE MISSING A PAGE OR GET A BADLY PRINTED GRAPHIC, LET US KNOW AND WE'LL SEND YOU ANOTHER SOON

(See graphics)

YVONNE WANROW'S MURDER CONVICTION OVERTURNED IN PRECEDENT-SETTING VICTORY

NEW YORK (LNS)--"In our society women suffer from a conspicuous lack of access to training and the means of developing those skills necessary to effectively repel a male assailant without resorting to the use of deadly weapons..."

So reads the Washington State Supreme Court's precedent-setting opinion January 7 reversing the 1973 murder conviction of Yvonne Wanrow.

On the night of Friday, August 11, 1972, Yvonne Wanrow, a 29-year old Colville Indian woman, shot and killed William Wesler.

A 62-year old white man, Wesler had an arrest record for child molesting. Wanrow's friend, Shirley Hooper, had called the police that day, asking them to arrest Wesler immediately. Wesler had lured Hooper's 10-year old daughter and Wanrow's 8-year old son into his house, locked his door and picked up a knife. Both children had managed to escape. But the police refused to arrest Wesler that Friday, telling Hooper to come to the station on Monday to "swear out a warrant."

The previous week, Hooper had seen a man prowling around her house at night. Two days before the shooting, someone had slashed her bedroom window screen and unscrewed a light on the porch. She suspected Wesler.

Shirley Hooper was becoming more and more frightened. It had only been that day that her 7-year old daughter Mildred had finally told her Wesler had raped her some months before. The child had gone to a doctor, who diagnosed a rash as venereal disease, but the child was too terrified to identify Wesler until then.

That same day, Hooper's landlord informed her that Wesler had tried to molest a young boy who had previously lived in the same house, and that the man had been committed to a mental institution. The landlord suggested that Hooper get a baseball bat to hit him with in case he came to the house.

Hooper called Wanrow that night and asked her to come to her house for protection and she came, with a pistol in her handbag. Both women were too afraid to stay alone, so they called Wanrow's sister and brother-in-law. The four stayed awake all night, watching over their eight children.

At five o'clock Saturday morning, Yvonne's brother-in-law left the house, unknown to the three women; and he forgot to lock the front door. He went to Wesler's house and accused him of being a child rapist and Wesler, infuriated and drunk, charged over to the Hooper residence. Yvonne's brother-in-law remained behind, struggling with a man who was with Wesler, David Kelly, 26.

The 6'2" Wesler barged into the house and approached the couch where Wanrow's nephew was sleeping. Wanrow, 5'4" and on crutches at the time, testified that she then went to the door to call her brother-in-law to help. She turned around, was startled to see Wesler now right behind her, and fired her gun.

Hooper then called the police and Wanrow herself got on the phone, saying that she had just shot a man. The police kept her on the phone until a car arrived. They taped the conversation, although they did not inform her that they were doing so; nor did they mention her right not to answer questions at that time.

Trial, Conviction & Reversal

Yvonne Wanrow's trial began on May 7, 1973. The jury was deadlocked for some time when they asked to listen again to the tape recording of her conversation with the police the night of the shooting. Forty-five minutes after hearing the tape, the all-white jury returned a guilty verdict, based on the defendant's tone of voice, which the jury found too lacking in emotion for a person who had just shot someone.

Wanrow was sentenced to 25 years on charges of second-degree murder and first-degree assault.

Her conviction was appealed and won in August of 1975 on the grounds that the tape recording was inadmissible in court. The prosecution challenged the lower court's decision, but the State Supreme Court, in its January 7, 1977 decision, upheld Wanrow's appeal.

The Supreme Court ordered a reversal of the conviction on two grounds: that the use of the tape recorded telephone call was inadmissible as evidence; and that the court "erred in limiting the acts and circumstances which the jury could consider in evaluating the nature of the threat of harm" as Yvonne Wanrow perceived it.

"The impression created," the opinion reads, "that a 5'4" woman with a cast on her leg and using a crutch must, under the law, somehow repel an assault by a 6'2" intoxicated man without employing weapons in her defense... constitutes a separate and distinct misstatement of the law and, in the context of this case, violates the respondent's right to equal protection of the law."

"The respondent was entitled to have the jury consider her actions in the light of her own perceptions of the situation, including those perceptions which were the product of our nation's 'long and unfortunate history of sex discrimination.'"

A Victory for Womens' Rights of Self-Defense

This section of the opinion could have a broad impact on women accused of charges relating to self-defense. According to Beth Bochnak, a member of Wanrow's legal team, "In the several cases that have been publicized recently -- the Joann Little case, the Inez Garcia case, and Yvonne's case -- this is the first time that anyone has been able to raise the specific question: how is a woman going to be able to defend herself?"

"And now that it's been met so squarely and answered so well by the Supreme Court in Washington it means that the issue is no longer hidden; it's right up front. That means that in the future people will be able to hark back to this case."

Spokane County Prosecutor Donald Brockett now has 20 days to dismiss the case; to call for a retrial; or -- since the Supreme Court decision was unanimous -- attempt to persuade the court to reconsider its decision.

Yvonne's supporters are mounting a letter-writing campaign to push for the dismissal of the case rather than a new trial.

"I know I'll win," Wanrow said at a recent benefit to raise funds for her defense. "It's just a question of when."

continued on page 6 . . .

(See packet #704 for background information).

NATIVE AMERICAN WOMAN SUING PENNSYLVANIA WELFARE DEPT. FOR FORCED STERILIZATION

NEW YORK (LNS)--In August of 1970, Norma Jean Serena, a Native American woman, was sterilized without her knowledge or consent in Armstrong County, Pennsylvania. Her suit against the hospital and Armstrong County welfare officials has been in the courts for six years and will come to trial in the next few months.

If Serena wins her case, it will be the first time a court has decided that sterilization without informed consent is a violation of civil rights.

Serena, pregnant with her fifth child in August of 1970, went to Citizens' Hospital near Pittsburgh to deliver. Unknown to her, two case workers from the county's welfare service had approached doctors at the hospital to have Serena sterilized and to take away the new-born child.

These same two case workers had two of her other children taken away from her earlier in the year, claiming that they were seriously ill and that the law required that the children be placed temporarily in foster homes.

According to an affidavit attached to Serena's lawsuit, Dr. Thomas Rosenberg had examined the two children -- Lisa, 3 years old and Gary, 2 -- and said that they were fine. The welfare service also told the adoptive parents that the adoption was permanent while Serena believed it to be temporary.

The case workers originally visited Serena on an anonymous complaint that Serena was living with a "Negro man." Their initial case report described Serena as "an unmarried American Indian cohabitating with a Negro man" and said it was dangerous for neighborhood children to be in the vicinity with "Negro men coming and going."

At Citizens' Hospital, doctors acted on the case workers' sterilization request and prepared a "Statement of Need for Therapeutic Sterilizations." The form, prepared without Serena's knowledge or consent, read: "We find from observation and examination of Norma Jean Serena that she is suffering from the following ailment or condition: *economic reasons*. And that another pregnancy would, in our opinion, be inadvisable. Therefore, we are of the opinion that it is medically necessary to perform the sterilization."

Serena entered the hospital to give birth to her fifth child, Shawn. While she was still exhausted from labor and under sedation, she was told she had to sign a "form for treatment." Without knowing it, Serena signed away her new-born child and was sterilized. She learned that she'd been sterilized a few days later when she overheard a conversation in her hospital room.

In subsequent months, Serena made numerous attempts to get her children back. A court order returning the children to her custody was ignored by case workers who said it had been issued under pressure from the "Negroes" and "so-called Indians with beaded head-bands and

feathers." Case workers kept Serena from visiting her children and told her to go back to her "people" the Creek-Shawnee in Oklahoma-- or commit herself to a mental institution.

Serena is now living in Oklahoma and has won back her children. Altogether, Shawn was kept from her for two and a half years; Lisa and Gary for three years each. The three children are also plaintiffs in the suit.

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(Thanks to Off Our Backs for this information).

WOMEN ARE GOVT'S SCAPEGOATS IN UNEMPLOYMENT CRUNCH

NEW YORK (LNS)--White House spokespeople and conservative economists are increasingly trying to make working women the scapegoats for the government's failure to curb unemployment.

Ford's economic advisors are busy explaining away the official unemployment rate of 7.8%. That figure, they contend, should be adjusted to 5.5% because the larger rate includes so many women who don't "need" to work.

Their argument runs like this: the economy is generating plenty of new jobs; it just can't keep pace with the influx of women and teenage workers, so unemployment doesn't seem to be falling. But since these new workers aren't the primary breadwinners for their families, things aren't as bad as they seem.

As Newsweek put it recently, the unemployment rate is "no longer a valid indicator of the economy's performance -- or of the human suffering that goes with it."

The feds would have us believe that most women work for "pin money." But in fact, according to U.S. Department of Labor Statistics, the number of women workers who are the sole supporters of their families increased by 30% between 1970 and 1975, with 10 million such women at work by '75.

At the same time, the official unemployment rate for women workers in general rose to a staggering 24%. Women heads of families with two children or less had an 8.6% unemployment rate and for women family heads with three or more children it was 17.1%.

Black mothers in particular are affected by the unemployment crisis and illustrate a general pattern for all women. Limited educational opportunities for black women are directly related to higher unemployment and greater poverty. And as a whole, women remain concentrated in lower-skilled and lower-paid occupations.

Poverty and low wages are the reality for many women workers in the U.S. In 1975, out of 10 million women family heads, 2.8 million had a total annual income of less than \$5,000. Less than 30% of all families headed by women reported incomes of \$10,000 or above, as compared to 70% of all families headed by men.

From 1970-75, the number of poor families headed by women rose 21%.

-30-

[Thanks to the Lansing Star and the Spokeswoman for this information]

QUESTIONS:

RECENT LETTERS OF CRITICISM TO VIETNAM:
WHAT ARE THE CRITICS? WHAT ARE THE REEDUCATION CAMPS?

NEW YORK (LNS) -- Major U.S. newspapers have given prominent news coverage in the past month to a letter of criticism addressed to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

The letter was written by James Forest of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, and bases much of its information on a September New York Times article by Theodore Jacqueney, an ex-State Department official. Forest and Jacqueney accuse the Vietnamese government of "grievous and systematic violations of human rights" including "arrest and detention of a wide range of persons." The letter, signed by one hundred people (some have since removed their names), demands that these people be "released."

The Charges

Among the half-dozen "opponents of Thieu now in detention" that the Jacqueney article and the Forest letter specifically name are: Father Tran Huu Thanh, a lecturer to psychological warfare officers in Thieu's army, who is also accused of involvement in an anti-government rebellion last February; Tran Van Luyen, a deputy premier in a previous Saigon government; and Tran Ngoc Chau, a director of training for a Saigon "pacification" program. These people never opposed the U.S. intervention in Vietnam. Their "opposition to Thieu" arose solely from Thieu's ineffectiveness in carrying out U.S. strategies in the later years of the war.

Forest cites as sources for his information Vietnamese evacuees in Paris and "European journalists." Jacqueney refused to reveal the nature of his sources or elaborate on his allegations in a phone conversation with the Washington-based Indochina Resource Center.

Jacqueney is no disinterested observer. As an Agency for International Development (AID) officer in Vietnam, he was an advisor to the mayor of Danang under the Thieu regime, and worked in the CIA-directed pacification program.

What Are the Reeducation Camps?

Approximately 30,000 civilian and military officials of the Thieu regime are now in reeducation camps in Vietnam. Thieu's army and police force, one of the most brutal and sophisticated in the world, numbered about one million. Ninety-five percent of these people have already attended reeducation sessions and have returned to their villages. In fact, most of the adult population of the whole of previously-occupied southern Vietnam have attended reeducation sessions in which they discussed the nature and history of the Vietnamese revolution and the U.S. intervention.

The length of time that the ex-soldiers stay in the camps is determined by the length of time they served in Thieu's army, the position they held in the army, the nature of their crimes, and the progress they make in the reeducation centers. The government has announced that no one will stay in the centers for more than three years.

The goals of reeducation are that the people "learn to become productive members of society, lose their notions of exploitation, and repent for their crimes," according to anti-war activist Cora Weiss,

who had a first-hand view of the camps on a visit to Vietnam in the summer of 1976.

"The people in the camps learn job skills, grow their own food, and are responsible for their own survival," a member of Friends of Indochina elaborates. "They go to classes on the history of the war and learn how it was U.S. imperialism that forced Vietnamese people to fight against their own people."

One Vietnamese journalist writes that the Vietnamese government distinguishes between "those that were compelled to serve the Americans through force of circumstance" and "counter-revolutionary" leaders.

Who is Making the Charges?

Among the one hundred signatories of Forest's letter are some politicians, members of church organizations and other individuals, which the New York Times, Washington Post and Washington Star have focused on in headlines as "anti-war activists."

"But these weren't the activist workers of the anti-war movement," a member of Friends of Indochina said. "Among the millions of people that were in the anti-war movement, why does this letter from one hundred people get so much publicity? We think it's a way to justify continued U.S. government hostility to Vietnam." She noted that although the letter was sent in October, it was not reported in the press until late December, shortly after the Fourth Congress of the Vietnam Workers Party met and received favorable publicity on its plans for the future development of the country.

Those that sent the letters to Vietnam "stress their long opposition to the war," writes Dave Dellinger, long time anti-war organizer. However, he continues, "they do not point out that most of those organizing the present campaign urged a boycott of the first massive demonstration against U.S. intervention, held in April, 1965, because it failed to condemn Hanoi, Peking and Moscow equally with Washington. They -- and their main sources of information, Thich Nhat Hanh, a Buddhist monk living in Paris, and Theodore Jacqueney, a former State Department employee in Vietnam -- never abandoned that attitude of hostility toward the National Liberation Front and Hanoi."

James Forest, who wrote the well-publicized letter and solicited its signatories, concludes in another article he wrote that the current situation in Vietnam "helps me to learn the truth on which pacifism is anchored Wars, even won by groups fighting the most savage injustices and animated by the highest ideals, do not produce peaceful societies."

But there never was a pacifist option in Vietnam, nor a Vietnamese force that pressed for one. Facing thirty years of French and American armed force, the Vietnamese had no choice but to fight back. Forest's conclusion is blind to the real nature of the long conflict, and, as a logical extension of his position, he ignores the legacies of the war which the Socialist Republic of Vietnam is now in the process of overcoming.

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LNS ADDRESS

We still get mail at our old address. Please don't send us mail at 160 Claremont. We're now at 17 West 17 Street, New York, New York 10011.

January 15, 1977

more

see packet #824 for some background information on the Brookside Mine

MINERS CHARGE UNION BUSTING

(Editor's Note: The following information comes from an article by David Massey which appeared in the Mountain Eagle, a community paper in Whitesburg, Kentucky.)

"If you go to them with a safety problem, they shut down the mine rather than fix it. If MESA (Mine Enforcement and Safety Administration) finds them a violation, they wait three days, then shut down the mine to fix it. They won't sign the contract, they'll turn around and shut down the mine--anything to get the men discouraged."

--James Keel, president of the UMWA local in Brookside, Kentucky.

NEW YORK (LNS)--During 1973-1974, miners and their families in Harlan, Kentucky, fought a bitter 13-month battle with the Eastover Mining Company for UMWA recognition at the Brookside Mine. Now, a little more than two years after Eastover finally signed a UMWA contract, miners are charging the company with an all-out effort to "bust" the union.

Miners say the company unnecessarily laid off 42 workers from the Brookside mine in early December, when some of them reported a safety violation. The UMWA has since filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of the Interior against Eastover, asking that all the workers be reinstated and paid back wages for work days missed due to the closing.

The complaint maintains that the violation--inadequate clearing along a haulage way--could have been corrected without the layoffs. In addition, the company shut down the mine before the deadline passed for correcting the violation, according to officials in the MESA office in Harlan, Kentucky.

Norman Yarborough, president of Eastover Mining Company, says the union busting charges are "ridiculous," claiming "there are no labor-management problems at Brookside."

But union members say otherwise. They explain that Eastover has allowed its equipment to deteriorate so that its two union mines can be shut down at every available opportunity.

"Norman Yarborough doesn't want you to run coal," explains James Keel, president of the UMWA Brookside local. "In the first place, he's not going to give you anything to run it with."

Keel and others say Eastover has been sending its worst equipment to Brookside, while its two non-UMW mines, Arjay and Highsplint, have received the best.

"You go into the mines and you try to run coal with this junk, and when it breaks down, they'll put you amucking with a shovel or send you home rather than fix the stuff," said union member Cecil Sizemore.

Scab Union to Return?

According to Keel, Eastover is "trying to get

the men so disheartened by continually shutting down the mine that they will vote to bring back the Southern Labor Union (the "sweetheart" or company union at Brookside before the UMWA recognition there).

Two miners are reportedly handing out cards for the Southern Labor Union. They're attempting to get enough signatures to petition for another union recognition election before the UMWA contract expires at the end of the year.

"The men don't know what to do, they don't know who to believe," said Sizemore, who is pessimistic about the ability of the UMWA to hold its ground at Brookside. "All the men want a union," he went on. "But when it comes to someone pressuring them all the time, these men get scared and they're worried about their family and homes. They don't know which way to turn or which way to go."

Sizemore and Keel also say that a number of Brookside miners have left Eastover to work at U.S. Steel's mine in nearby Lynch. "They're so discouraged they just give up," Sizemore said. He notes that UMWA miners at Brookside have been "blacklisted" from other mines in Harlan County.

According to the two men, the Harlan County Coal Operators Association is also mounting a campaign to drive the union out of the entire county. They cite the fact that two other UMWA mines--Pathfork Harlan Coal Co. and Shackleford Coal Co. at Glenbrook--have laid off more than 100 workers since last June.

It looks suspiciously like union-busting, implied Clifford Bailey, a member of the Brookside local's grievance committee, "when three places in the county have a reduction in work force about the same time."

Eastover supplies all of its coal to its owner, Duke Power Company, whose headquarters are in Durham, North Carolina. Eastover operates two UMWA mines and two non-UMWA mines in Harlan County.

Keel and Sizemore also charged that District 19 of the UMWA (which includes Harlan County) has failed to help the local union and to present its problems to the international UMWA headquarters in Washington, D.C. "The district isn't worth five cents," said Keel. "I begged them to bring charges against the company, but they wouldn't give us help on anything."

Keel added that until recently, the international UMWA office in Washington provided very little assistance.

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"NIGHTS STILL THRIVE ON PEASANT REVOLUTION" wrote the New York Times in a recent fashion report about a Metropolitan Museum of Art bash. Guests, including Jacqueline Onassis and Imelda Marcos, wore "peasant" fashions of Yves St. Laurent and Oscar de la Renta, which are selling at Saks and Bergdorf's for upwards of \$200.

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(Thanks to the Weekly People for this info.)

MARK TIME WITH NEW 1977 PEOPLE'S CALENDARS

NEW YORK (LNS)--1977 is already underway--but it's not too late to send away for any number of beautiful "people's history" calendars. The following collection is by no means a complete offering of what's available, but it's a start.

****Many people now eagerly look forward to Akwasasne Notes' Native American calendar and they won't be disappointed in this, it's sixth year of publication. The Akwasasne calendar is a lunar calendar. "While each lunar month begins with the new moon," they explain, "the months such as January, February or March begin and end arbitrarily and harmonize with nothing in the Creation."**

Each lunar month has its own Indian name, like Hlikok Natan k (Melting Snow Moon) or Oo Pinoweye Pisim (Arrival of the Ducks) and the calendar offers a wealth of historical information about Native Americans. The calendar costs \$3 post-paid, and can be ordered by writing to Akwasasne Notes, Mohawk Nation, via Roosevelttown, N.Y. 13683 or calling (518) 483-2540.

****Using multi-colored illustrations and brief histories, the 1977 Syracuse Peace Council wall calendar depicts twelve, mostly successful people's struggles in upstate New York. They include the first women's rights convention, Seneca Falls, 1848; the IWW sitdown strike against Schenectady G.E., 1906; and the Abolitionists' "Jerry Rescue"--an ex-slave broken out of the Syracuse jail, 1851.**

The calendar can be ordered by mail for \$3.25 by writing to the Syracuse Peace Council/Calendar, 924 Burnet Ave., Syracuse, N.Y. 13203. (315) 472-5478.

****This is the seventh year that the Liberation Support Movement has published an African Liberation calendar. The 10 X 13 calendar features photos, dates, poems and quotes from African liberation leaders.**

Proceeds from the calendar are designated for the building of a SWAPO (South West African People's Organization) printshop, supplying printing facilities and technicians to the Namibian liberation movement. "Help break the chains of forced illiteracy," writes LSM, and order your calendar from PO Box 94338, Richmond, B.C., Canada V6Y 2A8. \$2.50 pre-paid only.

****SWAPO itself has also published a calendar for 1977. In English, Spanish, French and Arabic, the large 23 X 16 calendar has six posters--one for two months of the year--depicting various aspects of the fight for liberation in Namibia. Send the dollar equivalent of 1.50 pounds to SWAPO at 21-25 Tabernacle St., London EC2 England for a copy.**

****NICH--Non-Intervention in Chile--has produced a 9 X 11 wall calendar reflecting aspects of the Chilean people's culture and history. The calendar features poems by a Chilean political prisoner, a Chilean refugee and Pablo Neruda, as well as photos, and an essay on Chile. For a copy, send \$2.50 to NICH, 339 Lafayette St., New York, N.Y. 10012.**

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(Friends, please send us copies of any 1977 calendars you would like publicized.)

See graphics

PICKETS DEMAND CLOSING OF SOUTH AFRICAN MUSICAL

NEW YORK (LNS)--Chanting "Don't Support Genocide--Get Your Money Back," seventy-five militant pickets urged theater-goers not to attend opening night of the Broadway musical from South Africa, "Ipi-Tombi," on January 12. The demonstrators, who have marched in front of the show each night since previews began December 28, vow to maintain their picket lines until they force the show to close.

While the theater marquee declares that "Happiness is an African Musical Called Ipi-Tombi," protesters characterize it as "a sad and dangerous burlesque of the day to day victimization of our brothers and sisters in Azania (South Africa)." The play celebrates the South African bantustan arrangement, a cornerstone of the government's apartheid and "separate development" policy, whereby certain areas called bantustans are designated for blacks to live in. Focusing on a young man who leaves his bantustan only to meet frustration in the big city, the play later shows him returning home to find "true happiness" on the bantustan--"where the girls are" (translated: Ipi-Tombi). Much of the play consists of native dancing and songs, for which white South African "playwright" Bertha Egnos is collecting both credit and royalties.

Television spots of the dancing women of Ipi-Tombi have bombarded New York viewers for weeks. The expensive promotion, combined with less than capacity crowds at the musical have already led to losses for the producers. Many speculate that the South African government is discretely channeling money to the play, since the producers of the musical, A. Deshe (Pashanel) and the Israeli actor Topol, in conjunction with white South African Ray Cooney and two South African theaters, are not known to be the wealthiest of backers.

One demonstrator said that the musical is not in this country to make money, but to create a positive image here of the policies of the South African regime. He noted that U.S. government support for the apartheid regime is important to South Africa. U.S. banks and their subsidiaries have loaned over \$2 billion to South Africa, nearly twice the amount of a year ago. Playwright Bertha Egnos has bragged that Ipi-Tombi "is a wonderful ambassador for South Africa."

While "Ipi-Tombi" is the latest image-building project from South Africa in the U.S., demonstrators point out that "it tries to be less conspicuous than the Krugerrand (the South African gold coin advertised in the U.S. before Christmas), by deliberately omitting from its advertisements its point of origin. The publicity for Ipi-Tombi calls it an "African" musical, and many theatergoers do not know that it is from South Africa until they get inside.

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NEWS IN YOUR AREA??? Write up an article and send it to us: LNS, 17 W. 17th ST., N.Y., N.Y. 10011.

ACLU SEEKS DAMAGES FOR VICTIMS OF CIA MAIL OPENINGS

NEW YORK(LNS)--From 1953 to 1973 the CIA admits to having illegally opened, read and copied 215,000 first-class letters that were mailed by or addressed to American citizens or residents. If you have reason to believe that secret operation HTLINGUAL opened your mail you'll be interested in a series of American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) damage suits now in the works.

The ACLU aims to win money damages for the tens of thousands of persons involved, secure an injunction to stop any further mail openings, and force the CIA and the FBI (to whom thousands of the opened letters were transferred) to empty their files on HTLINGUAL.

Two lawsuits are aimed at high-ranking CIA officers responsible for the mail-opening program. Seven more are directed against the United States itself -- novel in civil liberties terms, says the ACLU, but if successful it will produce more damage money since the U.S. Treasury has more in it than the individual bank accounts of former government officers.

The civil liberties organization is hoping that all lawsuits can be brought as class actions, but if that is denied, they will want to have the participation of as many named individuals as possible. In order to participate, you must know for a fact that the CIA has opened your mail. The CIA will supposedly give you that information if you write to the FOIA Coordinator, CIA, Washington, D.C. 20505 with a short letter demanding to know "under the authority of the Freedom of Information Act" whether your mail has been opened. Past experience has shown, says the ACLU, that if the Agency has opened your mail, it will tell you so and also send you copies of your letters.

The next step is to submit a claim for damages to the CIA and that's where the ACLU can help you. Their legal department has produced a small packet of materials and forms which will explain all the steps. For that packet, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Legal Department, ACLU, 22 East 40th Street, New York, N.Y. 10016.

The ACLU does not promise that the lawsuits will produce monetary damages, but, says Legal Director Melvin Wulf, "At the very least, a flood of demands for damages will impress the government with the fact that the public objects strongly to the gross and fundamental invasion of privacy involved in the illegal mail-opening."

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U.S. SUPPORTS WORLD BANK LOAN TO CHILEAN JUNTA AS "NONPOLITICAL"

NEW YORK(LNS)--The World Bank voted December 21 to grant the Chilean junta a loan of \$60 million. The U.S., which has 25% voting power in the international financing institution, voted for the loan as they have for the past three years since the Chilean coup.

Representatives of the World Bank claim that the loan to Chile is "nonpolitical." But critics point out that the loan will serve to strengthen the junta, and that during the years of the Popular Unity government under Salvador Allende the World Bank refused to grant any loans to Chile.

The U.S. representative to the World Bank, Hal Reynolds, explained the cutoff of loans to Chile

during the Popular Unity years as not based on politics but rather on the country's poor "creditworthiness." He failed to mention, however, that during this period, the U.S. had embarked on an explicit policy to destroy the Chilean economy. A note by former CIA director Richard Helms, made on the 1970 instructions of both Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger, read, "Make the economy scream."

"In the Chilean case, United States votes in the World Bank seem to depend on whose economy was being gored and what the politics were of the people in power," wrote John Marks, author of *The CIA and the Cult of Intelligence*, in a recent N.Y. Times column. "A high World Bank official commented that if you exploit the people to pay off your debts, you're creditworthy. If you don't exploit the people and don't pay your debts, you've got problems," he said.

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LAWYERS GET RICH FROM NEW YORK CITY FISCAL CRISIS

NEW YORK (LNS) -- Some people at least seem to be profiting off of New York City's fiscal crisis. A recent article in the Village Voice reports that several law firms have made huge sums of money for advising the city on how to deal with its monetary woes.

In fact, the Municipal Assistance Corporation (MAC) -- a group of bankers and businessmen set up to guide the city's economic "recovery" -- spent \$2,868,459, nearly one-half of its first year's budget, on legal fees alone.

In between admonishing investors to make further sacrifices, and assuring that the bond moratorium was perfectly constitutional, MAC counsel Simon Rifkind extracted a nifty \$1,445,740 fee for his firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison; while MAC's bond counsel, Hawkins, Delafield & Wood made \$971,386.

Asked if these prices were not unseemly considering the austerity measures forced upon city workers, a MAC spokesperson told Voice reporter Ken Auletta that while "The numbers are astronomical to you and me... (they are)... not to the world of finance. Considering the scale of financing MAC has arranged -- approximately \$4 billion -- these are not high numbers."

Auletta consulted eight lawyers, including a junior attorney at Paul Weiss, all of whom thought that the fees were both astronomical and ridiculous. But a spokesperson for Hawkins, Delafield and Wood disagreed, explaining that they had reduced their normal fee (as did Paul Weiss).

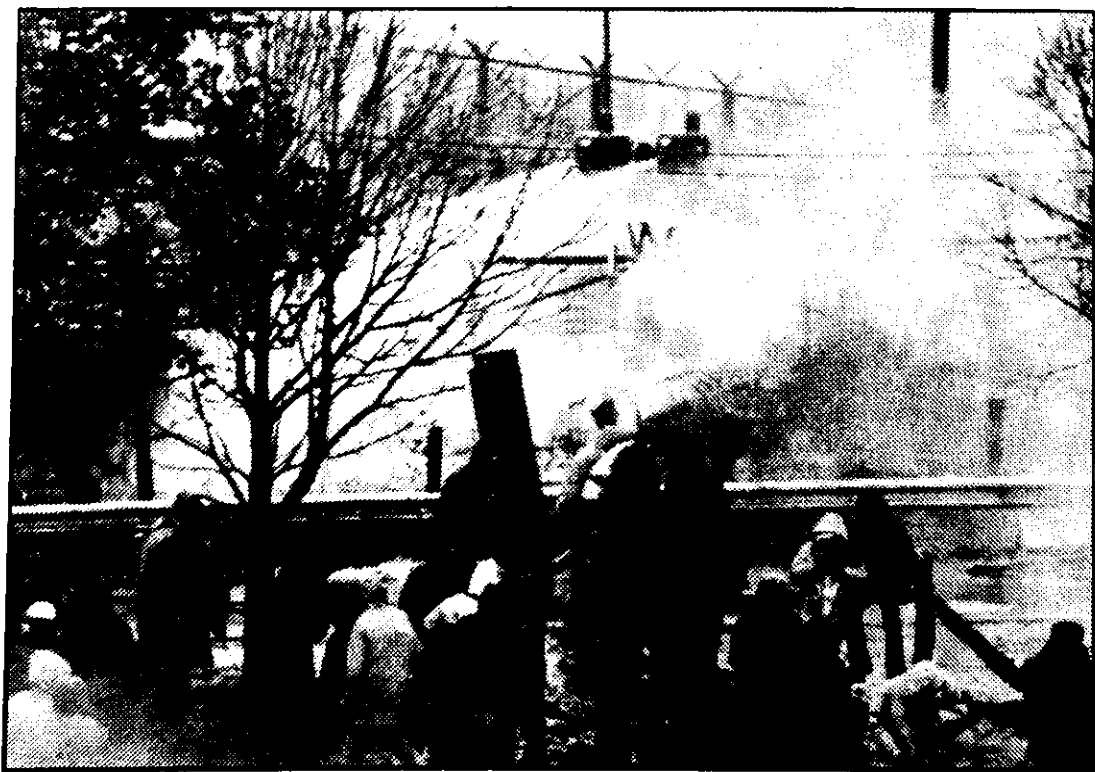
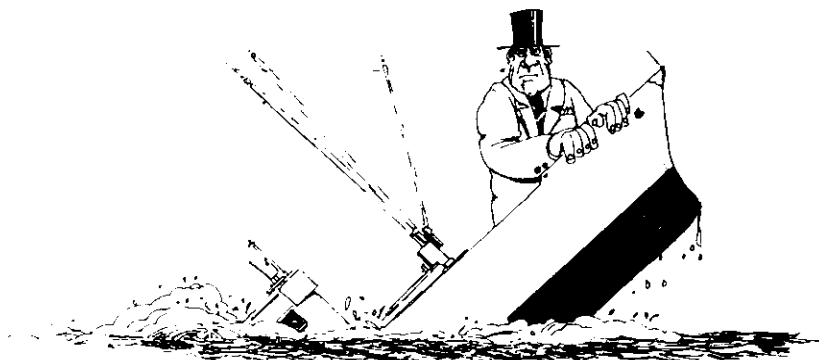
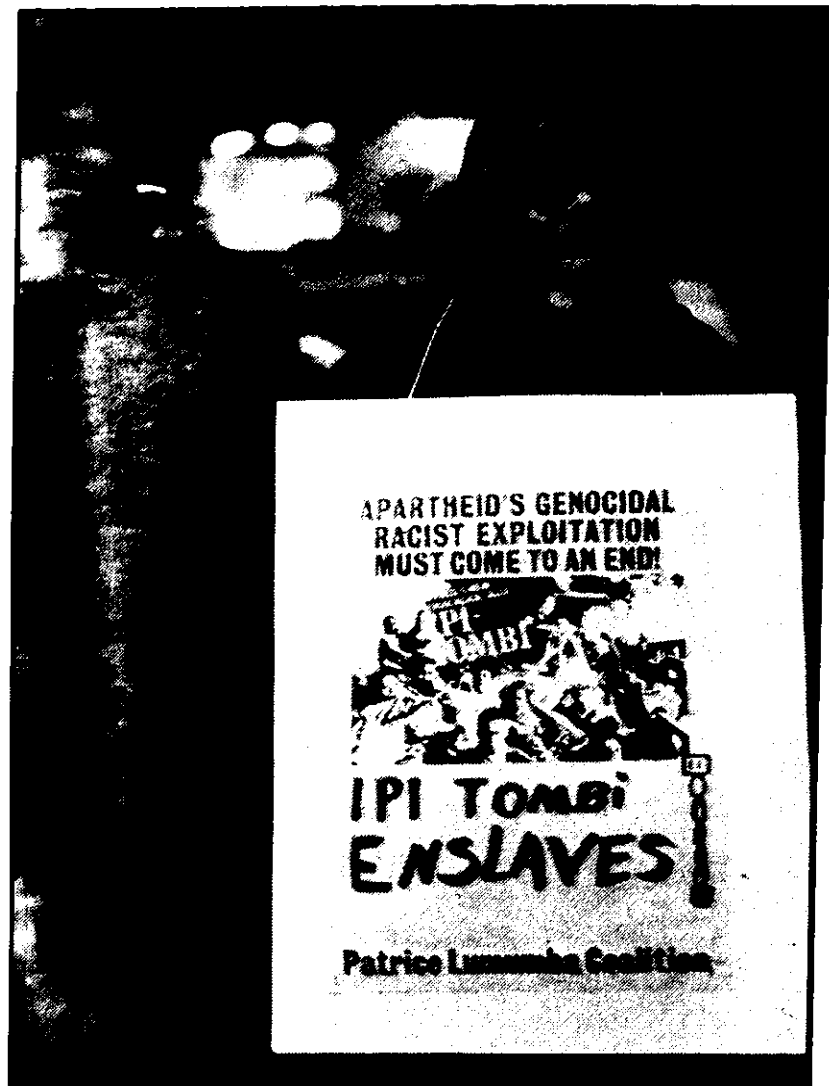
"I think if you look at our reduction," he said, "we certainly did help the belt tightening." He admitted, however, that this occurred only after complaints by state comptroller Arthur Levitt.

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YVONNE WANROW CONVICTION OVERTURNED ... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1...

Yvonne Wanrow is asking that letters of support sent to Governor Dixie Lee Ray, State Capitol, Olympia, Washington, to demand that her case be dismissed without a retrial. Copies of these letters can also be sent to Spokane County Prosecutor Donald C. Brackett, Spokane, Washington.

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TOP RIGHT: Picketers at the opening
night of the South African musical
"Ipi-Tombi" demand that it be closed.
New York City, January 12, 1977.

TOP LEFT CREDIT: Peg Averill/LNS

SEE THE STORY ON PAGE FIVE.

CREDIT: LNS

MIDDLE RIGHT CREDIT: BULLETIN POPULAIRE/LNS MIDDLE LEFT: A moat, "nato" barbed wire, and
gas were used to keep demonstrators off the
proposed site of a nuclear power plant in
Brockdorf, West Germany.

In every German park there are signs saying,
"Burger schtzt Eure Anlagen" which literally
means "keep the park clean, stay off the
grass"ect. The slogan in this photo is a
pun on words which literally translated
reads: "Citizens, protect yourselves from
these grounds".

CREDIT: INFORMATION DIENST/LNS

SEE THE STORY IN THE LAST PACKET.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Fred Wright/FOR THE PEOPLE/LNS BOTTOM LEFT: Demonstrators in Brockdorf
West Germany trying to penetrate the site
of a proposed nuclear power plant through
barbed wire and tear gas. Nov. 1976.

CREDIT: INFORMATION DIENST/LNS

SEE THE LAST PACKET FOR THE STORY.